

FIG. 1

200.

 $204 \sim ABC CORP.$

206,

CONTAINS SENSITIVE INFORMATION

-208

DESCRIPTION OF VISUAL BLUR INVENTION

This invention addresses the common problem of viewing sensitive information in a public place. Many document types, such as word processing, spreadsheets, messages, online statements, etc. may be protected through this invention. 202.

A document may be caused to display all or a portion of its contents in a format that is illegible (e.g. "blurred") to an uninvited viewer. Control of blur attributes can occur in many ways and can depend upon many user-definable and/or system-definable conditions. Examples are font, style name, keyword, data type (e.g. \$), file name, cursor position, or explicit selections or sections. The degree and type of blur can be varied.

With this invention, people reading over your shoulder cannot read anything sensitive on your display.

210

BLURRING OFF

FIG. 2

DESCRIPTION OF VISUAL BLUR INVENTION

This invention addresses the common problem of viewing sensitive information in a public place. Many document types, such as word processing, spreadsheets, messages, online statements, etc. may be protected through this invention.

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With this invention, people reading over your shoulder cannot read anything sensitive on your display.

BLURRING ON

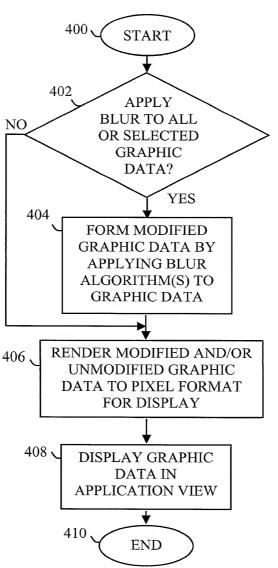
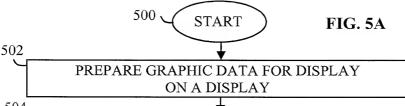


FIG. 4



504

MODIFY THE GRAPHIC DATA TO FORM MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA

- THE GRAPHIC DATA CAN BE MODIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ONE OR MORE DATA ATTRIBUTES FROM THE GROUP COMPRISING FONT, PARAGRAPH, PAGE, DOCUMENT, USER NAME, USER LOCATION, DEVICE NAME, DATE, TIME, STYLE NAME, DATA TYPE, TEXT, FIELD, FILE NAME, CELL, COLOR, SIZE, SHAPE, ANGULAR ORIENTATION, INTENSITY, AND POSITION [GROUP I]
- THE GRAPHIC DATA CAN ALSO BE VARIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A CONTROL SIGNAL FROM A USER INTERFACE ELEMENT FROM THE GROUP COMPRISING A CURSOR POSITION, A POINTING DEVICE, A KEY, A BUTTON, A SCREEN MENU, A SCREEN ICON, A MICROPHONE, A TOUCH SENSITIVE SCREEN, OR A COMBINATION THEREOF [GROUP II]

506A

DISPLAY THE MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA ON THE DISPLAY

- THE MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA HAS REDUCED LEGIBILITY
- IN ONE EMBODIMENT, THE MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA APPEARS GAUSSIAN BLURRED

506B THE DEGREE OF MODIFICATION CAN BE VARIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DATA ATTRIBUTE FROM GROUP I AND/OR WITH A CONTROL SIGNAL FROM GROUP II 508 UNMODIFY THE MODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA TO FORM UNMODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA THE GRAPHIC DATA CAN BE UNMODIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A DATA ATTRIBUTE FROM GROUP I AND/OR WITH A CONTROL SIGNAL FROM A USER INTERFACE ELEMENT FROM **GROUP II** 510 DISPLAY THE UNMODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA ON THE DISPLAY ORIGINAL LEGIBILITY IS RESTORED FOR THE UNMODIFIED GRAPHIC DATA 512

END

FIG. 5B